

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the September 22, 2008 Office Action. In the Office Action, claims 18-28 stand rejected. Claim 18 has been amended. Support for the amendment to claim 18 may be found, for example, in the specification at page 6, lines 11-14 and 25-26 and in Fig. 1B.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 18-22, 25, and 27-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by International Publication No. WO 01/17012 to Peters et al. Claims 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Peters in view of JP 7-205214 to Yoshihiro. Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Peters in view of JP 7-80895 to Shigeya. In view of the foregoing amendment and the following comments, reconsideration of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Amended independent claim 18 recites, *inter alia*, “first and second co-acting mould parts which are displaceable relative to each other between an encapsulating position, in which the mould parts, when closing onto the carrier, occupy a position for defining at least one mould cavity that encloses at least a portion of the carrier, and an opened position in which the mould parts are situated at a greater distance from each other than in the encapsulating position, and feed means, for encapsulating material connecting onto at least one projecting edge under which is located a receiving space for a part of the carrier, wherein the projecting edge forms a stationary assembly with the first mould part, and the first mould part also receives a support for the carrier that is displaceable relative to the edge such that the carrier can be urged against the projecting edge with a controllable force.”

The Peters reference fails to disclose or suggest first and second co-acting mould parts which are displaceable relative to each other between an encapsulating position, in which the mould parts, when closing onto the carrier, occupy a position for defining at least one mould cavity that encloses at least a portion of the carrier and where a projecting edge forms a stationary assembly with the first mould part as recited in independent claim 18. In the *Response to Arguments* section at page 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that the holder member (17) and sleeve of Peters et al., which includes the chamfered edge (11),

are interpreted as being a lower mold part. The holder member (17) and sleeve (16) of Peters, however, along with either the upper mould part (2) or the lower mould part (3) fail to define a cavity that encloses at least a portion of the carrier when in the encapsulating position and cannot be interpreted as one of the mould parts of the present invention. In contrast, when disposed in an encapsulating position, the upper and lower mould parts (2, 3) of Peters define the cavity (4) of the device in Peters. Accordingly, the Peters reference fails to disclose or suggest a projecting edge that forms a stationary assembly with a first mould part as recited in independent claim 18. Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, the Peters reference fails to disclose all of the limitations of independent claim 18. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 25 recited, *inter alia*, “placing the carrier on a first mould part such that at least one projecting edge connected to the first mould part lies on the side opposite the side of the carrier supporting on the first mould part, B) reducing the distance between the projecting edge and a support part of the first mould part supporting the carrier such that a part of the carrier is clamped between the part of the first mould part supporting the carrier and the projecting edge... wherein during step B) the support part is moved in the first mould part towards the projecting edge that is kept stationary.”

The Peters reference fails to disclose or suggest a method for encapsulating an electronic component where a support part is moved in the first mould part towards the projecting edge that is kept stationary as recited in independent claim 25.

As previously discussed in the Amendment filed July 14, 2008, the Peters reference states that “between upper mould part 2 and lower mould part 3 is a holder member 10” (see page 4, line 26) and that the holder member (10) shown in Fig. 1 “is completely clear of lower mould part 3, but in practice it will be moved less far upward so that it still remains in contact with lower mould part 3” (see page 4, lines 27-30). The holder member (17) shown in Fig. 4 of the Peters reference only differs from the device shown in Fig. 1 of the Peters reference in that a sleeve (16) is rigidly linked with the holder member (17) such that the sleeve (16) moves with the holder member (17) (see page 5, lines 23-26). Thus, the lower mould part (3) of Peters, which supports the carrier (5), remains stationary and the holder member (10) with the chamfered end (11) is moved toward lower mould part (3) to

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engage an edge of the carrier (5) (see page 4, line 32 to page 5, line 2). Further, the holder (10) and plunger (8) do not support the carrier and cannot be interpreted as a support part as recited in claim 25. Accordingly, the upper and lower mould parts (2, 3) and holder member (17) of Peters fails to disclose or suggest a support part that is moved in the first mould part towards the projecting edge that is kept stationary as recited in independent claim 25. Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, the Peters reference fails to disclose all of the limitations of independent claim 25. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 19-24 and 26-28 depend from, and add further limitations to, either independent claim 18 or independent claim 25 and are believed to be patentable for the reasons discussed hereinabove in connection with independent claims 1 and 25.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claims 18-28 and allowance of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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